**Small and Marginal Farmers in the Country**

2033. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: (a) the number of small and marginal farmers in the country as per the latest agricultural census, State-wise;

(b) the various developmental programmes/ schemes launched for them during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether government proposes to start any news scheme for them during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) A statement giving state-wise number of small and marginal farmers in the country as per the latest Agricultural Census 1990-91 is enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) Presently, a host of schemes/ programmes are being implemented with special concessions/subsidies on specific components to small and marginal farmers. These include subsidies/concessions in respect of sprinkler and drip irrigation systems, improved farm implements, crop insurance, credit, land levelling and ground water development. The setting up of Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium will also help generate income and employment for small and marginal farmers.

**Statement**

*Statewise Number of small and marginal operational holdings in India, 1990-91*

*(Number in thousands)*

| Sl.No. | States/UTs. | Small | Marginal |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 01. | Andhra Pradesh | 1972 | 5211 |
| 02. | Arunachal Pradesh | 17 | 16 |
| 03. | Assam | 560 | 1521 |
| 04. | Bihar | 1438 | 10193 |
| 05. | Goa | 7 | 58 |
| 06. | Gujarat | 915 | 924 |
| 07. | Haryana | 304 | 622 |
| 08. | Himachal Pradesh | 166 | 532 |
| 09. | Jammu & Kashmir | 197 | 902 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 1586 | 2262 |
| 11. | Kerala | 280 | 5016 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 1917 | 3136 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 2728 | 3275 |
| 14. | Manipur | 49 | 69 |
| 15. | Maghalaya | 51 | 59 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 23 | 29 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 21 | 13 |
| 18. | Orissa | 1035 | 2118 |
| 19. | Punjab | 204 | 296 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 1019 | 1517 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 11 | 26 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 1275 | 5848 |
| 23. | Tripura | 69 | 217 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 3118 | 14819 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 1107 | 4639 |
| 26. | All Union Territories | 19 | 70 |
| | ALL INDIA | 20092 | 63389 |

**Scope of Cotton production in Orissa**

2034. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope for production and export of cotton from Orissa;

(b) if so, the possibility explored by Government in this regard;

(c) the plan drawn up for 1998-99 or for Ninth plan for increasing areas under cotton cultiviation in the State; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes Sir, there is a good potential for increase of area and production of cotton in Orissa State. Ministry of Textiles releases quota for export from time to time depending upon the national requirement.

(b) To popularise cotton cultivation in the State, the Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP-Cotton). The Scheme has components like

supply of plant protection enquipments, sprinkler sets, distribution of seeds, Integrated Pest Management, demonstration-cum-training, farmer's training etc. The scheme is being implemented on 75:25 cost sharing basis between Government of India and the State.

(c) and (d) During 1998-99, an amount of Rs. 85.85 lakh has been allocated to Orissa State comprising of Rs. 64.39 lakh as Central share and Rs. 21.26 lakh as State share. For the Ninth Plan, Orissa State has been included in the cotton development scheme.

**Production of onions, potatoes, tomatoes and pulses**

2035. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total production of onions, potatoes, tomatoes and pulses in the country during the past six months;

(b) whether Government have provided any direct help to the agriculturists to boost production of these items and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to boost production of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Monthwise details on the production of onion, potatoes and tomato are not estimated. However, the likely production of pulses during Kharif 1998-99 is estimated at 5.61 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) Government of India is implementing two Central Sector Schemes namely, (i) Production and Supply of Vegetable Seeds and (ii) Development of Root & Tuber Crops. These schemes povide the incentives to the farmers through supply of quality seeds of improved varieties of vegetable through minikits which includes onion, potato, tomato and other vegetable. In case of pulses, incentives to the farmers are being provided through State Governments on the use of certified seeds, rhyzobium culture, micro nutrients, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, plant protection equipment, etc. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Pulses Development Project to motivate the farmers to adopt the improved production technology to increase the pulses production in the country.

**Study on Problems of Small and Marginal Farmers**

2036. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to conduct an in-depth study of the problems of small and marginal farmers and agriculture labour;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to announce safety net and social security measures for their benefit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) It has been proposed to set up a High Powered Committee to look into the real financial condition of farmers and to recommend ways to improve their financial condition.

**Making the Crop Insurance Compulsory**

2037. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make it compulsory for farmers to take insurance on their crops;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government insists on linking agricultural loans to agricultural insurance; and

(c) if so, whether the costs of compulsory insurance have been estimated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) It is proposed to introduce a Modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (MCCIS) from Kharif 1999 season onwards. Some of the features proposed to be included in MCCIS are:

— Both loanee and non-loanee farmers will be covered. Participation of loanee farmers is proposed to be made compulsory and voluntary for non-loanee farmers.